

WASHINGTON, D.C.---Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), an active supporter of House Democratic Whip Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) ascent to leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, expressed strong support for her candidacy for House Democratic Leader.

"Tomorrow's anticipated election of Nancy Pelosi to the Leader of the Congressional House Democrats marks a historic moment. She will be the first woman in either party to fill the top leadership spot and the highest-ranking woman in the history of U.S. politics," said Blumenauer. "Nancy Pelosi appreciates livable communities issues, has taken the time to visit Portland and as a Westerner she understands the unique challenges we face in Oregon. She is a tough, smart, shrewd and organized leader who will articulate the message this country and our community needs to hear."

"Quality of life issues and the building of livable communities are key components of the new House Democratic agenda. These are issues provide a unifying vision of where Democrats want to see our country move toward," said Pelosi.

Pelosi announced last week that she would run for House Democratic Leader. The current House Democratic Leader, Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO), has announced that he will not be running again for the position. Although Pelosi has secured enough advance support from her House Democratic colleagues to be elected Democratic Leader, she will face an election race with Rep. Harold Ford Jr. of Tennessee and Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio. The House Democratic Caucus will vote on this and several other leadership positions tomorrow.

Blumenauer helped elect Pelosi to the position of House Democratic Whip last year, a move that made her the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more information on House Democratic Whip Nancy Pelosi, please visit the following websites: <http://democraticwhip.house.gov/> or <http://www.house.gov/pelosi/>.